

Cheltenham Rural District



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1943.

C. D. OUTRED, D.P.H., M.R.C.S.,

L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (ENG.)

Cheltenham Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of the Health of the District for the Year 1943.

As in the previous reports only essential matters are dealt with, this is in accordance with instructions received at the outbreak of War.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. D. OUTRED,

(Acting) Medical Officer of Health.

CHELTENHAM RURAL DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943.

Area in acres, 81,940.

Population (as estimated by the Registrar General), 19,970.

Number of inhabited houses, 5,301.

Rateable value, £115,266.

Yield of one penny rate, £471 3s. 1d.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS REGISTERED.

		LIVE BIRTHS.				
		Males.		Females.		
Legitimate	...	152	...	145	...	297
Illegitimate	...	13	...	21	...	34
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Total	...	165	...	166	...	331

Giving a Birth Rate per 1,000 population of 16.5.

10.2 % of total births were illegitimate.

STILL BIRTHS.

		Males.		Females.		
Legitimate	...	5	...	3	...	8
Illegitimate	...	1	...	2	...	3
		—		—		—
Total	...	6	...	5	...	11

INFANTILE DEATHS.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.						
		Males.		Females.		
Legitimate	...	7	...	6	...	13
Illegitimate	...	1	...	—	...	1
		—		—		—
Total	...	8	...	6	...	14

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births, **42.2.**

DEATHS.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births, 43'7.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Births, 29'4.

Nett Number of Deaths, 239 (114 Males, 125 Females).

Giving a Death Rate per 1,000 population of 11'9.

Twenty deaths of non-residents were transferred to their own areas, and 88 in of residents who died away from the district.

The causes of death were certified as follows :—

DISEASE.	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough	1	—
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	4
Syphilis	—	2
Influenza	3	1
Cancer—Bucc Cav, Æsophagus, and Uterus ...	2	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	3
Cancer of Breast	—	3
„ Other Sites	9	9
Diabetes	4	—
Intra cranial Vascular Lesions	11	11
Heart Disease	28	42
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	1	6
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	2
Appendicitis	1	—
Other Digestive Diseases	4	3
Nephritis	1	7
Puerperal and Post Abort. Sepsis	—	1
Premature Birth	2	3
Congenital Malformation—Birth Injury Infant Disease	2	1
Suicide	1	1
Road traffic	1	2
Other violent deaths	1	1
All other causes	27	10
Total	114	125

Heart Disease and Diseases of the Circulatory System accounted for 41 % of total deaths ; Diseases of the Respiratory System, 11'7 % ; Cancer, 11'2 % ; and Tuberculosis, 2 %.

Infectious Diseases Notified (excluding Tuberculosis).

Measles	...	...	...	...	...	88
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	76
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	13
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	12
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexima	...	...	...	...	...	3

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH NOTIFIED OF THE PRINCIPAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.		Under 5 years.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and upwards.	Total
Measles	...	33	46	6	3	88
Scarlet Fever	...	25	41	5	5	76
Diphtheria	...	2	4	1	1	8
Pneumonia	...	1	2	1	9	13
Erysipelas	...	—	1	—	3	4
Whooping Cough	...	9	2	1	—	12

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
8	7	15	2	4	6	21

Total of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Cases ... 21

Of these persons found suffering with Tuberculosis, three died during the year.

Number of cases on the Register at the end of the year:—

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
56	46	102	18	14	32	134

Total of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Cases ... 134

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

	Under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.
Number of children known to be completely immunised 31st Dec., 1943	752	1708
Percentage of the population at those age periods ...	43·2	59·8

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population).	12·6 ...	13·4 ...	23·7 ...	16·5
Death Rate (Per 1,000 population).	12·1 ...	11·8 ..	11·8 ...	11·9
Infantile Mortality Rate— Deaths of Infants under one year of age ... (Per 1,000 Live Births).	39 ...	42·8 ...	23·4 ...	42·2

COMPARASON FIGURES WITH ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., OF BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES.

	England and Wales.	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns.	146 Smaller Towns.	County of Gloucester- shire.	Chelten- ham R.D.C.
Birth Rate ... (per 1,000 population).	16·5 ...	18·6 ...	19·4 ...	18·7 ...	16·5
Death Rate ... (per 1,000 population).	12·1 ...	14·2 ...	12·7 ...	12·1 ...	11·9
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) (Deaths under one year of age)	49 ...	56 ...	46 ...	40 ...	42·2

TEWKESBURY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This hospital, which is situated in the Tredington parish (Cheltenham Rural District), had been closed for some years, the equipment, furniture, etc., being disposed of. At the outbreak of war it was taken over by the Military Authorities, but early in 1942 the Ministry of Health, owing to shortage of beds for the isolation of infectious cases in this part of Gloucestershire, recommended that the Borough Council of Tewkesbury should take over and re-open it again as an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases, to which the Ministry were prepared to pay 75 % of the running costs after certain deductions had been made, such as the charges made to the Authorities by Tewkesbury for the treatment and isolation of their patients.

The scheme was adopted, and the Hospital was furnished, equipped, fully staffed, and opened on the 20th August, 1942. Electricity was laid on, and the steam disinfecter put into operation again. Already 245 patients have been admitted since it was opened, of whom 27 were from the Military and R.A.F. camps. Patients have been received from seven districts of Gloucestershire.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1942.

The following particulars have been submitted to me by Mr. E. H. Rosser, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

I. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during 1942.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	43
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	88
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	0
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	0
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	43

II. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	40
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III. Action under Statutory Powers during Year.

A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	0
1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(ii.)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (i.) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0
- (ii.) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By Owners 0
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 0

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :—

- (i.) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
- (ii.) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (i.) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
- (ii.) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit 0

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Nuisances discovered or reported	...	...	...	64
Complaints not justified	...	...	...	12
Number of Visits	...	...	...	150
Informal notices sent	...	...	...	62
Statutory notices sent	...	...	...	1
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	60
Summons issued	...	...	...	1
Convictions obtained	...	...	...	1
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	78
Premises disinfested	...	...	...	16
New drainage system	...	...	...	26

IV. Housing Act, 1936. Part 4—Overcrowding.

(i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	0
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	0

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

During the year a number of streams deteriorated through the discharge into same of sewage which had not received proper purification. This was particularly so at Ashchurch, Toddington and Swindon. It is recognised that this is due to war-time arrangements, but it is hoped the Local Authority will be supported in their efforts to improve conditions immediately hostilities cease in Europe.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE.

During the year the Ministry of Health ordered a survey to be made to ascertain the position as to water supply and sewerage in each village.

If each village is to have a sewerage system, this will mean there is a great deal of work to be undertaken in this respect.

In regard to water supply, this district probably compares very favourably with other districts of a similar character. With the number of connections made to the main since the date of the survey, nearly 80 % of the houses have a piped supply available. The largest village without this service at the present time is Twynning.

During the year work was completed upon the collecting of further springs at Stanway, and new mains laid to convey the water to the existing system. The minimum quantity made available by this work is approximately 50,000 gallons per day in a dry period.

There has also been an increased demand for water for purposes connected with the war effort, such as Camps, Hostels, and Factories. At periods the amount of water consumed at such establishments amounted to over 40 % of the yield of the springs supplying the area scheme.

Samples are taken periodically from all springs, and submitted to the County Analyst. In addition, all water from these sources is chlorinated, even though satisfactory reports are received as to the quality of the water issuing from the springs.

INSPECTION OF FOODS.

Owing to centralisation no regular slaughtering has been carried out in this area. A few emergency slaughters took place and these were dealt with in the usual manner.

Seventy-two inspections were made in connection with food supplies, and the following quantities found to be unfit for human consumption :—

	lbs.
Tinned fruit and vegetables	545
Tinned meat	177
Fresh meat	220
Tinned fish	41
Cake	66
Bread	224
Cheese	18
Bacon	23
Pork pies	24
Tinned milk	39

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Two hundred and seven visits were paid to dairy premises in the district, the majority being at the time of milking.

Police Court Proceedings were instituted by the Council on two occasions.

In one case where proceedings were taken for various offences against the Milk and Dairies' Order, the Magistrates inflicted fines amounting to £18, awarded costs against the purveyor, and dismissed an appeal against the Council's decision to cancel the retail license held by the producer.

In the second case proceedings were taken against the occupier of the farm and her two sons for offences against the Milk and Dairies' Order. Fines amounting to £13 were imposed, and the Court awarded costs to the Council.

In fourteen cases improvements were made by structural alterations and the provision of new cow-sheds and dairies.

BAKEHOUSES.

Six visits were paid to Bakehouses, and conditions were satisfactory in all cases.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Thirty visits were paid to Factories and Workshops in the district.

The pollution of the stream caused by the discharge of wastes from Messrs. Hansons' Canning Factory did not show any sign of improvement. Certain works were in hand, but these had not been completed at the end of the year 1943.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE.

A house-to-house collection of house refuse is made throughout the district. In the parishes of Leckhampton, Prestbury, and Winchcombe a weekly collection is made. In other parts the collection is made once per month.

Before this service was made in the whole area there were a number of places where unsightly dumps existed. These have been cleared, and it can be said that the appearance of the country-side has benefitted.